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## BOOK REVIEWS

### *Viruses Causing Common Respiratory Infections in Man*

George Gee Kackson and Robert Lee Muldoon

Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1975. viii + 248. Price £10.80.

This is a well-referenced book which the authors hope will assist virologists to complete the information lacking for some respiratory viruses. The layout, which includes viral characteristics together with laboratory and clinical information, is similar for each virus discussed so that direct comparison is facilitated. It is pleasing that both rhinoviruses and coronaviruses should receive excellent coverage but rather strange that influenza B and C should not be considered. The other viruses examined are influenza A, paramyxoviruses, respiratory syncytial virus, enteroviruses, reoviruses and adenoviruses. One of the few minor criticisms of the text is that only American sources of reagents are documented.

On the whole, therefore, this book is to be recommended as a research aid for clinician and laboratory worker alike.

R. W. RIDDELL

### *Pulmonary Thromboembolism*

Kazi Mobin-Uddin

Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1975. xvi + 393. Price: \$40.00.

This book consists of the edited proceedings of a symposium on pulmonary thromboembolism held at the University of Kentucky in 1973. Most of the contributors are from North America and include pathologists, radiologists, physicians, surgeons and even a paediatrician. The topics discussed included the pathology and haematology of thrombosis, diagnostic techniques in venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism, prophylaxis of embolism by medical and surgical methods, and therapeutic interventions in established thromboembolism. Virtually all areas of current interest in this subject are covered, but there is relatively little on haematology and the medical treatment of venous thrombosis is a surprising omission. The contents con-

tain not only the paper presented by each speaker (sometimes it seems exactly as spoken, at other times probably edited), but also the discussion that followed.

Such symposia perform a useful function mainly for the contributors who are able to exchange views and criticize each other's work and for other workers in the same field. The object of publication of such a symposium should be to provide authoritative views for the interest of the general audience. If this object is to be achieved, the contributions require careful editing. On the whole this book does not fulfil such an objective. Most of the chapters tread an uneasy path between a review article and an account of the author's work. The chapters which stand out are those which do not attempt to meet both these aspects of the subject.

The outstanding reviews are on <sup>125</sup>I-fibrinogen scanning and another on lung scanning which deals with both perfusion and ventilation scans. There is a fine summary on the inferior vena cava umbrella filter by the overall editor of the book: this may be of interest to readers in the UK who are unlikely to have much experience of this therapeutic technique. The most informative chapters dealing with original work are those concerned with research into the physiology of pulmonary embolism by Silver, and the important results of the multicentre urokinase pulmonary embolism trial presented mainly in summary form. By contrast with these sections, much of the clinical diagnosis, chest radiography and ECG findings of pulmonary embolism are frankly confusing as they fail to separate clearly groups of patients with pulmonary embolism in relation to duration and severity of the disease as well as the presence of additional cardiovascular disease.

This book is most likely to be used as a reference for those who are working in this field and interested in the views of particular contributors. It could not be recommended as a suitable text for students of thromboembolism who require an overview of the subject.

GEORGE SUTTON

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